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**May 25, 2018**

Public comments by Michael Swords 18-4-4: Public Meeting to Consider California's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust

Good morning. My name is Michael Swords and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs at the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator or LACI. LACI is a non-profit created by the City of Los Angeles to help support the growth of the green economy.

Transportation is LACI's top priority. LACI currently hosts 10 transportation start-ups and we recently completed our first global mobility start-up search.

We will soon announce a major new initiative designed to accelerate the transition to zero emissions transportation and goods movement. This strategic focus on transportation is one of the reasons why I am here today.

In November of last year, LACI submitted a joint letter with LA n Sync on what we thought the state should do in terms of priorities for the Environmental Mitigation Trust. In this letter, we recommended that Environmental Mitigation Trust funding be allocated to areas that were most impacted.

All of your data shows that no place within the state has been harder hit from VW's diesel cheating than those of us here in the South Coast air basin. The South Coast Region had the most registered vehicles which resulted in the greatest impact.

We think that the most environmental benefits can be achieved if the funds are proportionately distributed to the affected areas.

Within the plan, staff notes that doing a statewide funding approach “will provide the most equitable opportunity” and will ensure “more competitive and cost-effective projects.” We would argue that geographic equity should not supersede VW diesel vehicle locations and disadvantaged communities when distributing funds.

Given the importance these funds will have in reducing NOx emissions and undoing the harm that was inflicted by VW’s wrongdoing, we would ask that you hold some of these individual funding program workshops in the South Coast Air Basin to ensure that more people within the communities most impacted can participate.

We are supportive of CARB’s goals to use these funds to accelerate the cleanest vehicle deployments possible AND to truly mitigate the NOx emissions generated from the VW vehicles. And we believe to mitigate these emissions, we should do so where they occurred—the bulk of which are in the South Coast Air Basin.

Thank you for your time.